

A stylized, high-contrast graphic of the American flag. The stars and stripes are rendered in a bold, geometric style with a slight 3D effect, set against a dark blue background.

RESEARCH
AMERICA
DISCOVERY. INNOVATION. HEALTH.

AMERICA *Speaks!*

POLL DATA SUMMARY VOL. 22

MESSAGE FROM *Leadership*



Susan Dentzer
Chair, Research!America
President and CEO
America's Physician Groups



Mary Wooley
President and CEO
Research!America

Research!America's latest Poll Data Summary constitutes an important snapshot of public priorities as they concern science as well as medical and health research. This summary offers important opportunities for channeling public support for increased research and public health investments to drive delivery of solutions that our nation, and the world, desperately need.

Research!America has been commissioning public opinion surveys for over three decades, keeping a pulse on public attitudes as we strive to assure our advocacy is responsive to the hopes and aspirations of Americans, even as we address their concerns about research. As President Lincoln memorably noted, "Public sentiment is everything. With public sentiment, nothing can fail; without it nothing can succeed."

This 22nd edition of our Poll Data Summary, made possible with the generous support of the American Medical Association, shows strong agreement among members of the public concerning the value placed on science and innovation. There is strong bipartisan agreement that the federal government should support basic research advancing the frontiers of knowledge (83%) and provide incentives for private sector investment in science and technology (79%).

The data also strongly underscores that the public wants to hear from the science community – seeing communication as part of the job of scientists, many of whom work for the public. Americans also want scientists and public health officials to speak to elected officials, and they expect those officials to listen. At the same time, we've also seen notable slides in the confidence the general public has in public health officials, and in the percentage of adults who see the work of scientists benefitting them.

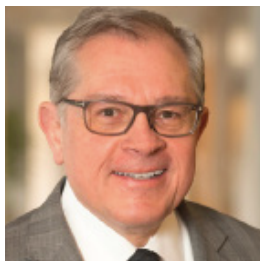
Despite the slide in confidence in scientists and public health officials, 7 in 10 Americans still agree (similar to last year) COVID-19 is a disruptive event calling for assigning a higher priority to science and technology in the U.S. (This result comes at a time when federal investment in science and technology has fallen to less than half the share of gross domestic product it once was – a situation that threatens our economic and national security.)

We hope that you will share this summary with your network and other interested parties. Research!America will continue to work with our members to make these public opinion perspectives broadly known; to make public engagement highly valued by the science community; and to work together with all stakeholders to raise the volume of advocacy for science with elected officials.

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Eight in 10 Americans say investing in research is important to economic growth and creating jobs and that investments in science and technology are creating employment opportunities in the United States.
- Mental health is now a top-3 health concern (behind COVID-19 and cost of health care); 11% identified mental health as the most important health concern, up from 6% in 2021.
- Confidence in scientists acting in the public's best interest decreased 12 points from 80% to 68% and those who say the work of scientists benefits them decreased 10 points from 83% to 73%. Confidence in public health officials slipped 16 points from 78% to 62%.
- Americans voiced strong bipartisan agreement that a scientist's job should include communicating their research to the public (85% of Democrats, 84% of Republicans, and 71% of independents say "yes").
- The survey showed strong bipartisan support for federal incentives to promote private sector investment in science and technology; 9 in 10 Democrats, 7 in 10 Republicans and independents say it is important.
- Americans agree it is important for the United States to be a global leader in science and technology (89%) and health research (85%).

MESSAGE FROM THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



James L. Madara, MD
CEO, American
Medical Association

The American Medical Association (AMA) is pleased to join Research!America in offering a wealth of insights found in Volume 22 of the Poll Data Summary in the America Speaks series.

The latest findings offer areas of encouragement as well as issues of concern. For example, while most of those surveyed continue to place their faith in scientists and public health officials, the percentage of those who believe scientists are working in the public's best interest dropped from 80% in January 2021 to 68% a year later.

And while a partisan gap remains in place between Democrats and Republicans when asked about the amount of trust they place in scientists and in public health officials, the latest survey documents broad bipartisan support for ensuring that scientists share research results with elected officials and outline the potential impact of their findings.

Americans across the political spectrum also agree that federal support for scientific and technological research should continue given the vital role it plays in economic growth and job creation. And while respondents pointed to the COVID-19 pandemic as the greatest challenge facing the nation, the survey also uncovered growing concerns over mental health and inadequate funding for mental health research.

The AMA appreciates the opportunity to partner with Research!America to provide advocacy, leadership, and outreach that supports expanded medical and scientific research, and promotes the betterment of public health. Our core mission of proactive advocacy aligns perfectly with Research!America's drive to build support for greater research into the cure, treatment, and prevention of physical diseases and mental disorders.

The AMA is proud to be a founding member of Research!America, and to stand with its diverse membership of institutions, professional societies, and businesses, in helping improve the health of the nation.

TABLE OF *Contents*

Top Concerns	5	Scientists as Communicators	20
Investing in Research and Education.....	8	Addressing Health Threats	24
Trust in Science.....	16	Global Leadership.....	27
		Visibility of Science.....	31

Look for these
indications throughout
this publication:



NEW QUESTION
New question since Poll
Data Summary Volume 21.



DECREASED



INCREASED

“

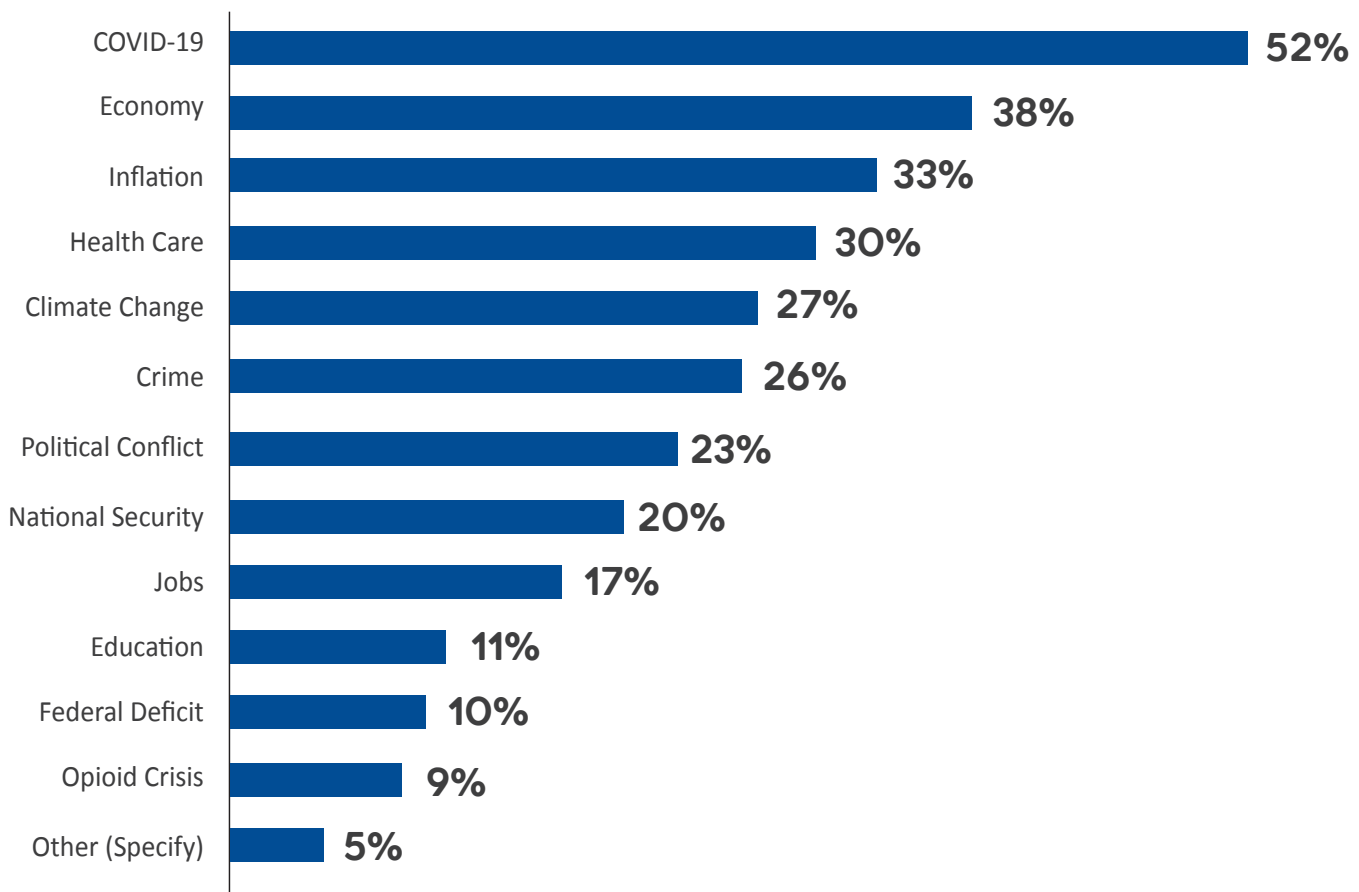
“Americans are seeing what matters. It matters that we lead with science and invest in research...We have a chance to alleviate so much pain and bring hope to so many people; to put an end to cancer, Alzheimer's, diabetes and so many other diseases.”

— President Joseph R. Biden at the 2021 Research!America Advocacy Awards

TOP CONCERNS

COVID-19 PANDEMIC REMAINS THE TOP CONCERN

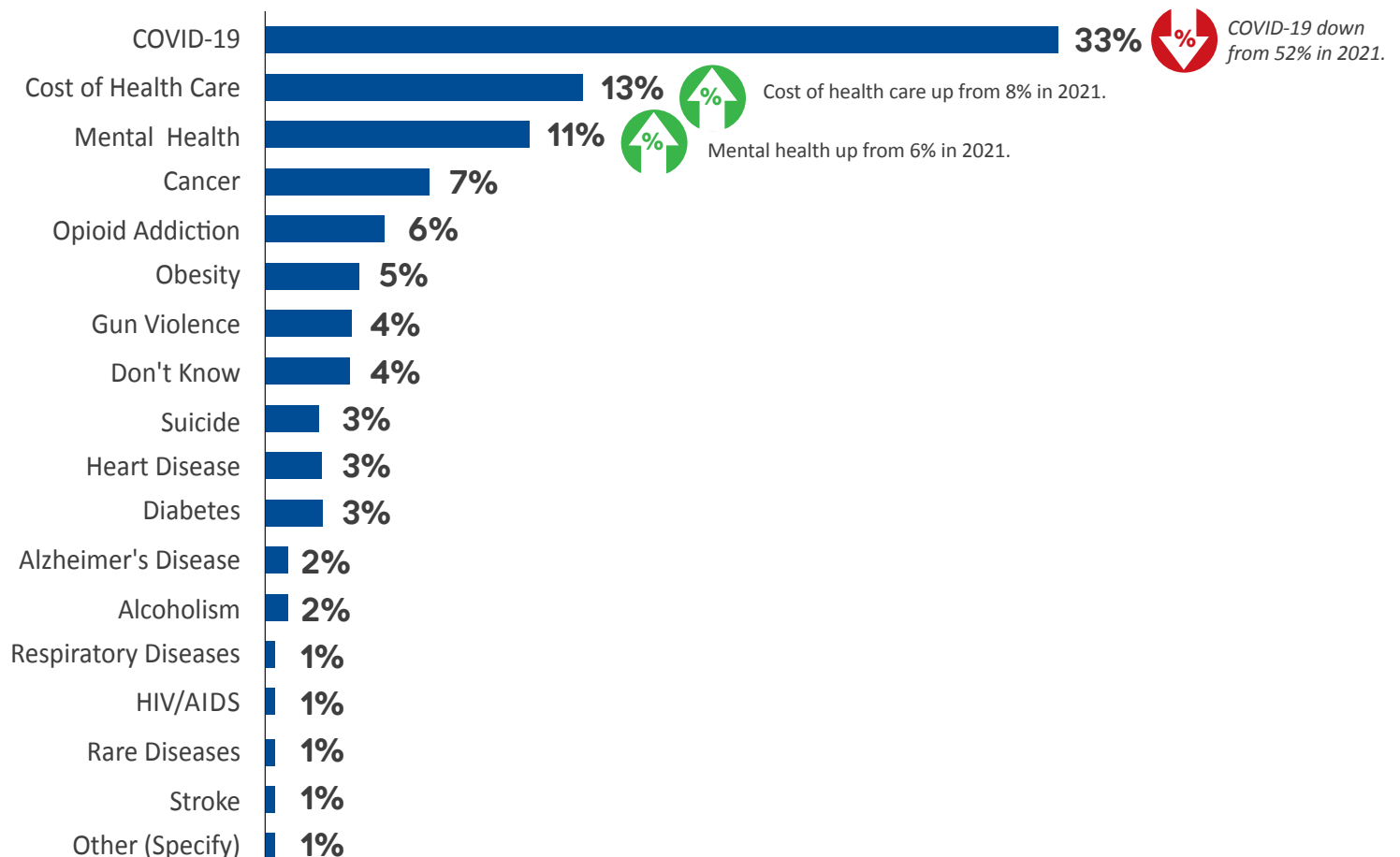
In your opinion, which of the following are the most serious issues facing this country?



Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.

MENTAL HEALTH BECOMES A TOP-3 HEALTH CONCERN

What would you say is the single most important health issue facing the nation?

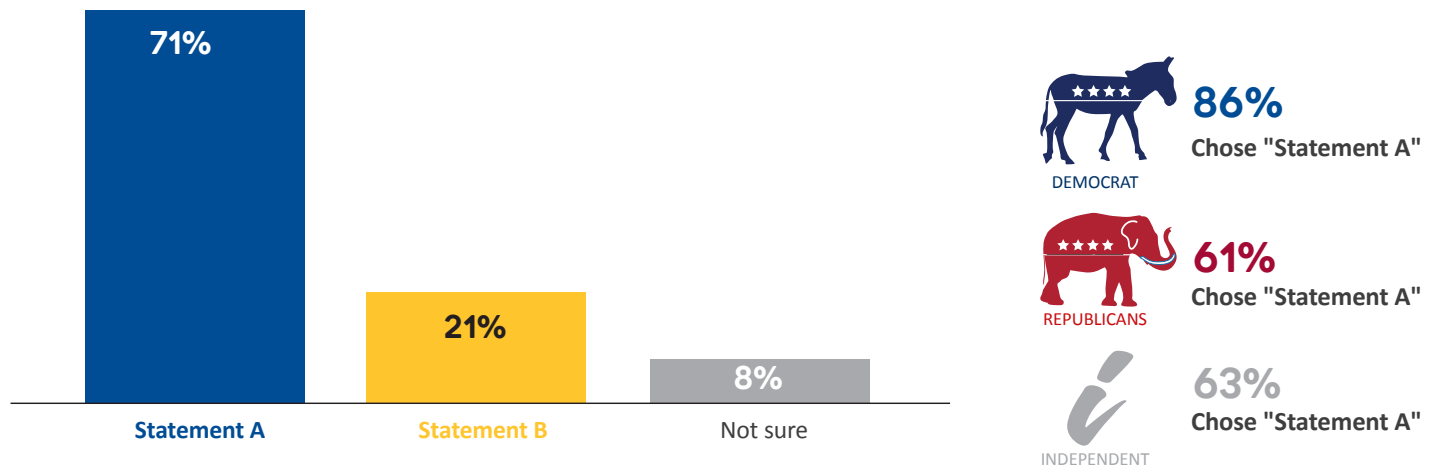


Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.

COVID-19 IS A DISRUPTIVE EVENT; U.S. SHOULD PRIORITIZE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Which statement is closest to your view?

- **Statement A:** The COVID-19 pandemic is a disruptive event and requires that the United States assign a higher priority to science and technology.
- **Statement B:** Things will get back to normal soon; we don't need increased efforts in science.



Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.



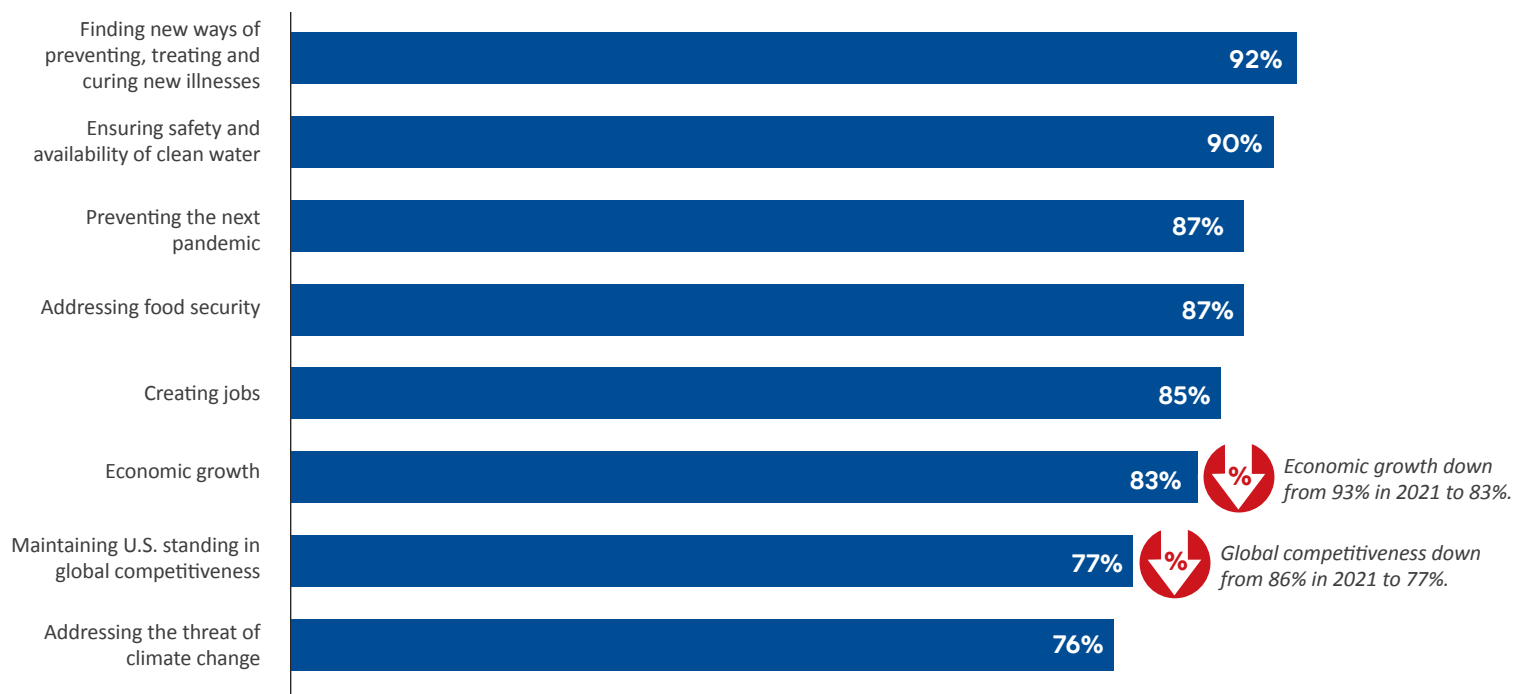
“Science is the U.S. government's best ally. Renewed investment, coupled with proactive efforts to innovate new solutions, can empower our nation to overcome threats to Americans and people across the globe.”

— Science and Technology Action Committee

INVESTING IN RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

OVER THREE-QUARTERS SAY INVESTING IN RESEARCH IS IMPORTANT TO ACHIEVING...

How important is investing in research to each of the following?

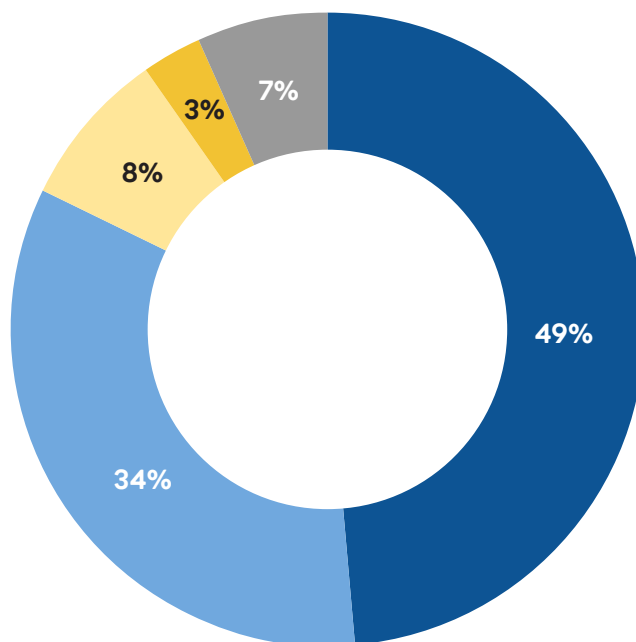


% saying "very important" or "somewhat important"

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.

8 IN 10 SAY IT'S IMPORTANT TO INCREASE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SPENDING AS A SHARE OF THE U.S. ECONOMY

Some governments have a goal to increase their science and technology spending to reach 3%-5% of their respective economies annually. Some, including Japan and Korea, have already met this goal, and others, including China, have pledged to do so. How important do you think it is for the United States to achieve this goal?

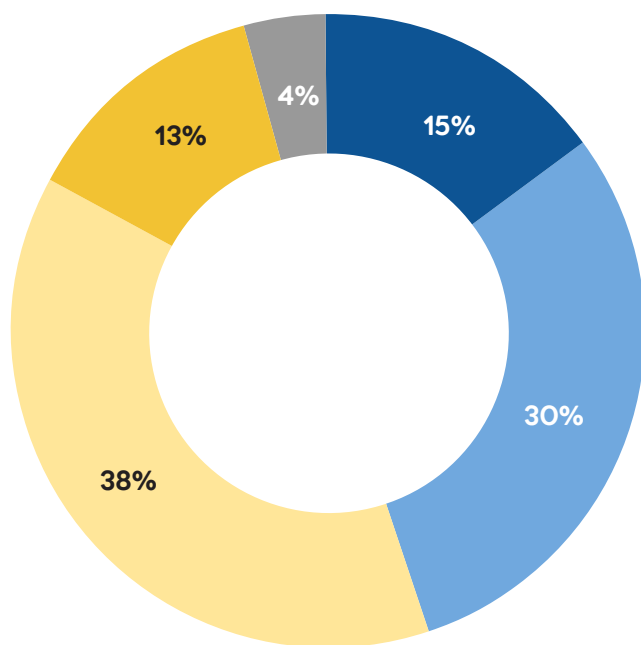


● Very important ● Somewhat important ● Not very important ● Not at all important ● Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.

8 IN 10 SAY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT CREATES U.S. JOBS

In general, do you think investments in science and technology are creating employment opportunities for all, most, some, or very few people in this country?



● All ● Most ● Some ● Very Few ● Not sure



90%

Say "All, most, or some"



80%

Say "All, most, or some"



77%

Say "All, most, or some"

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.

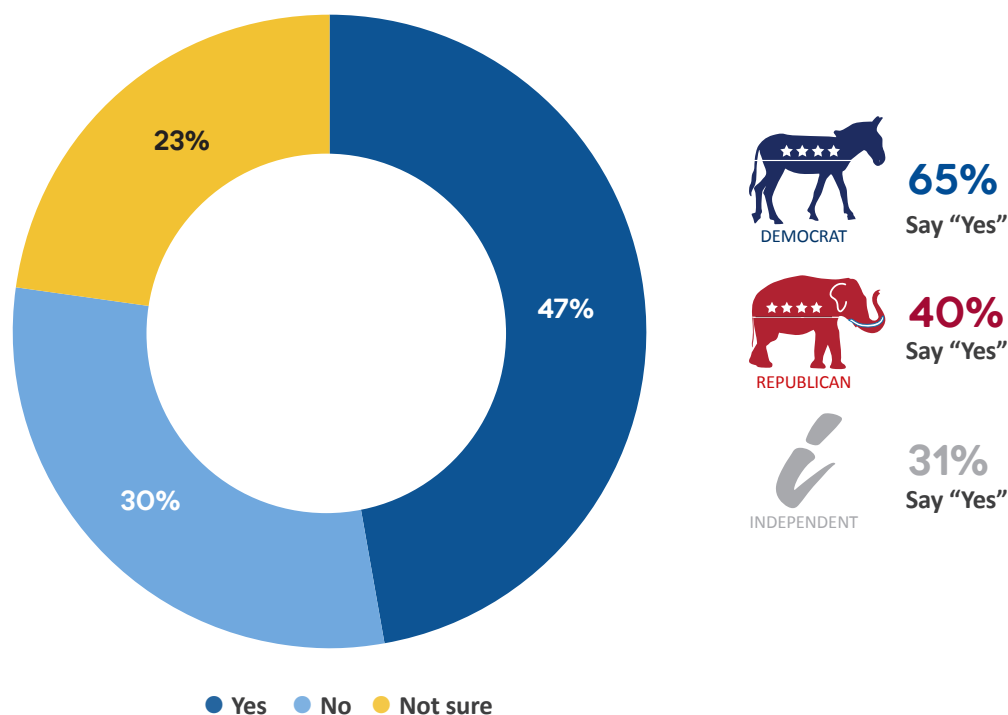


"Research yields enormous benefits for our state, among them the attraction of talent, federal funding, and economic development."

— M. Roy Wilson, MD, President, Wayne State University

HALF SAY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENTS ARE CREATING JOBS FOR THEM OR PEOPLE THEY KNOW

In general, do you believe investments in science and technology are creating employment opportunities for you or people you know?



Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.

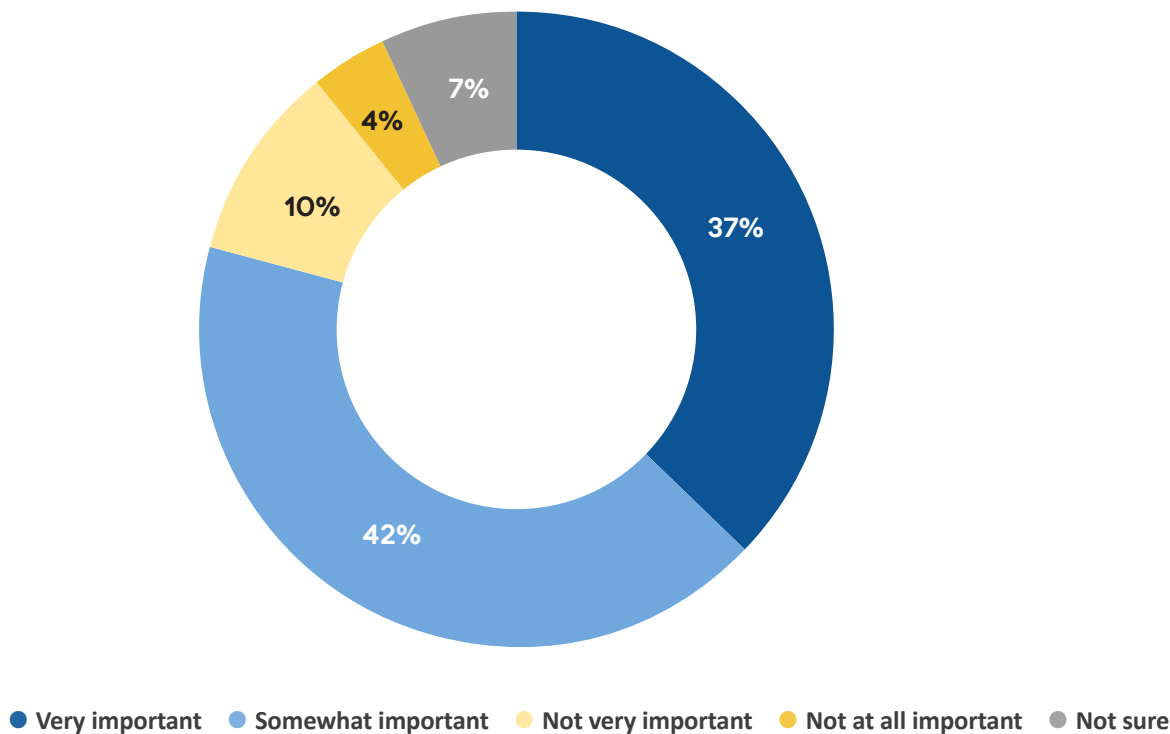


“Our research enterprise has long been a driver for innovations that have saved lives, inspired entire new industries, and spurred major economic growth... look no further than the rapid and unprecedented development of COVID-19 vaccines, enabled by recent breakthroughs from investing in basic research.”

— Marcia McNutt, PhD, President, National Academy of Sciences

STRONG SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT TO INCENTIVIZE PRIVATE SECTOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT

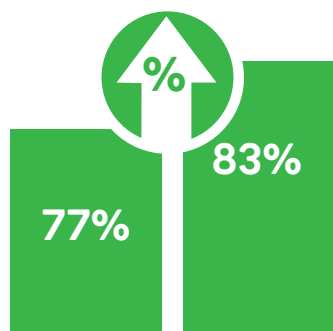
How important is it for the federal government to support incentives for private sector investment in science and technology?



Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.

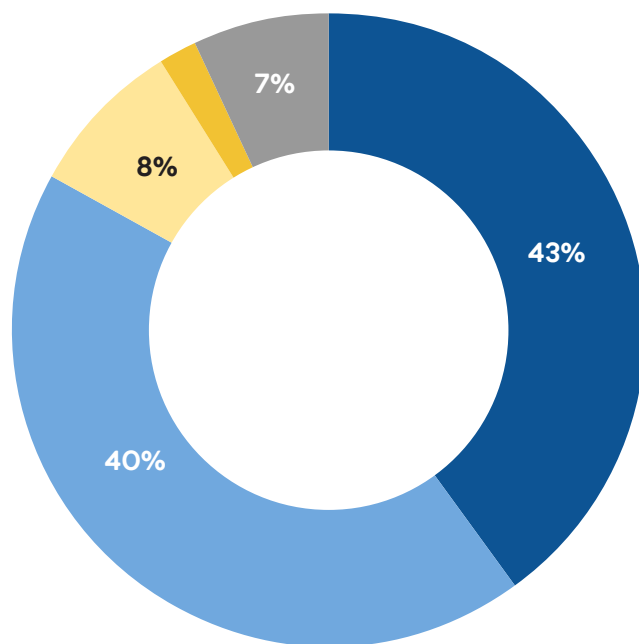
HIGH BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FOR BASIC RESEARCH

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Even if it brings no immediate benefits, basic scientific research that advances the frontiers of knowledge is necessary and should be supported by the federal government.



2020 → 2022

Strongly or somewhat agree increase.



● Strongly agree ● Somewhat agree ● Somewhat disagree ● Strongly disagree ● Not sure



92%

Say "Strongly or somewhat agree"



81%

Say "Strongly or somewhat agree"



74%

Say "Strongly or somewhat agree"

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.

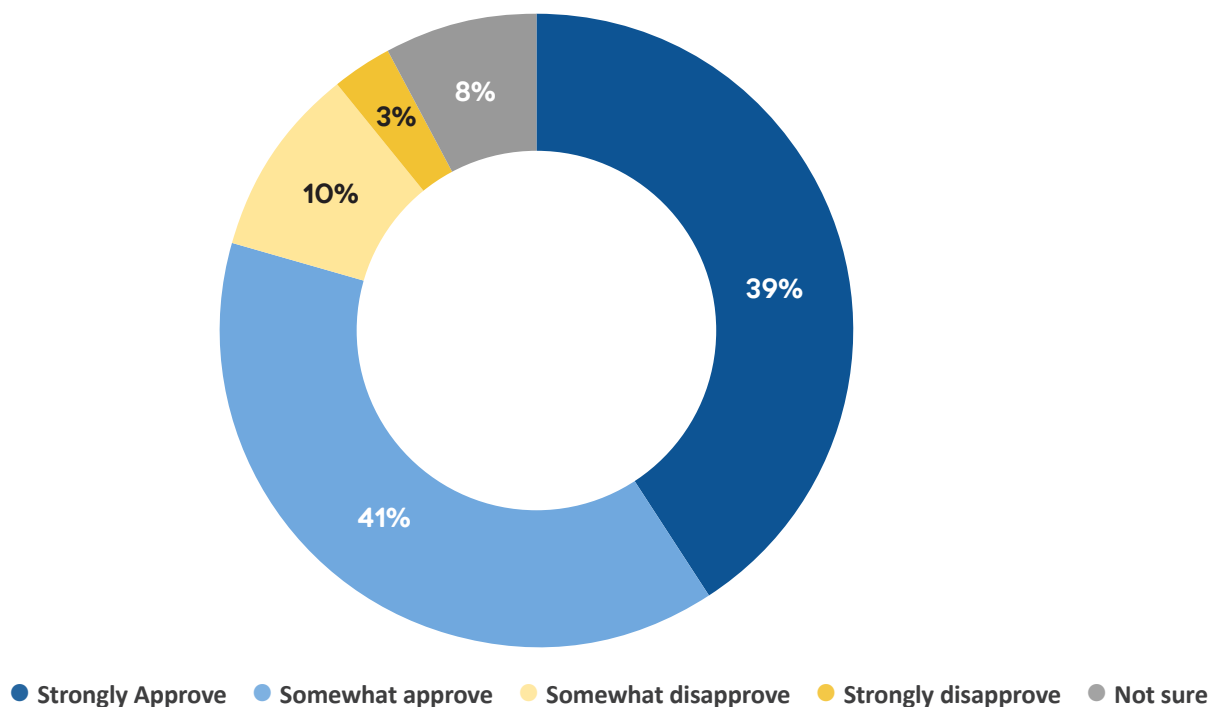


"It is no secret that doing big things in health care can take time, but for patients and families who are suffering, there is no time to waste. We need to make it clear that health care innovation and the development of cures and treatments is, and will continue to be, an urgent and nonpartisan priority."

— The Honorable Fred Upton, U.S. Representative (R-MI)

8 IN 10 SUPPORT PUBLIC FUNDS FOR BASIC SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AT UNIVERSITIES

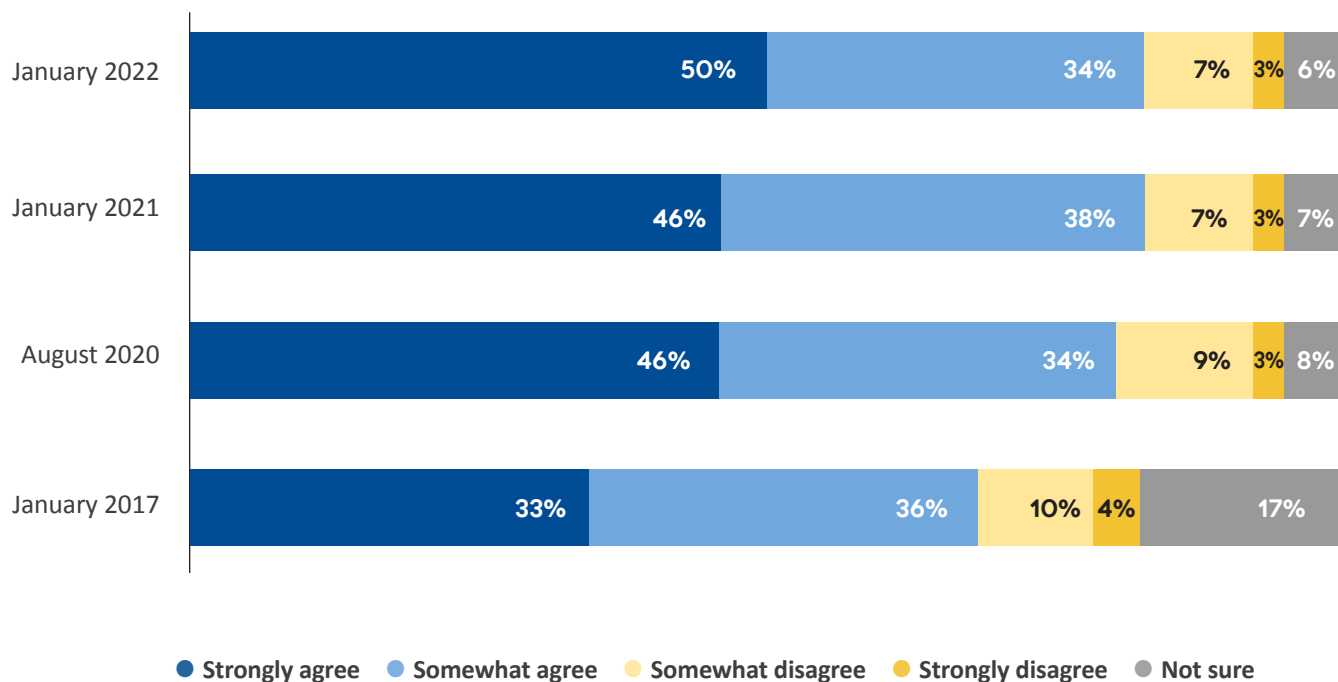
As you may know, the federal government provides public funds on a competitive basis to universities to conduct basic scientific research. Do you approve or disapprove of the federal government spending to sponsor scientific research at universities?



Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.

INCREASING SUPPORT FOR IMPROVING K-12 STEM EDUCATION

Do you agree or disagree that the federal government should assign a higher priority to improving K-12 education focused on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics?



Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.



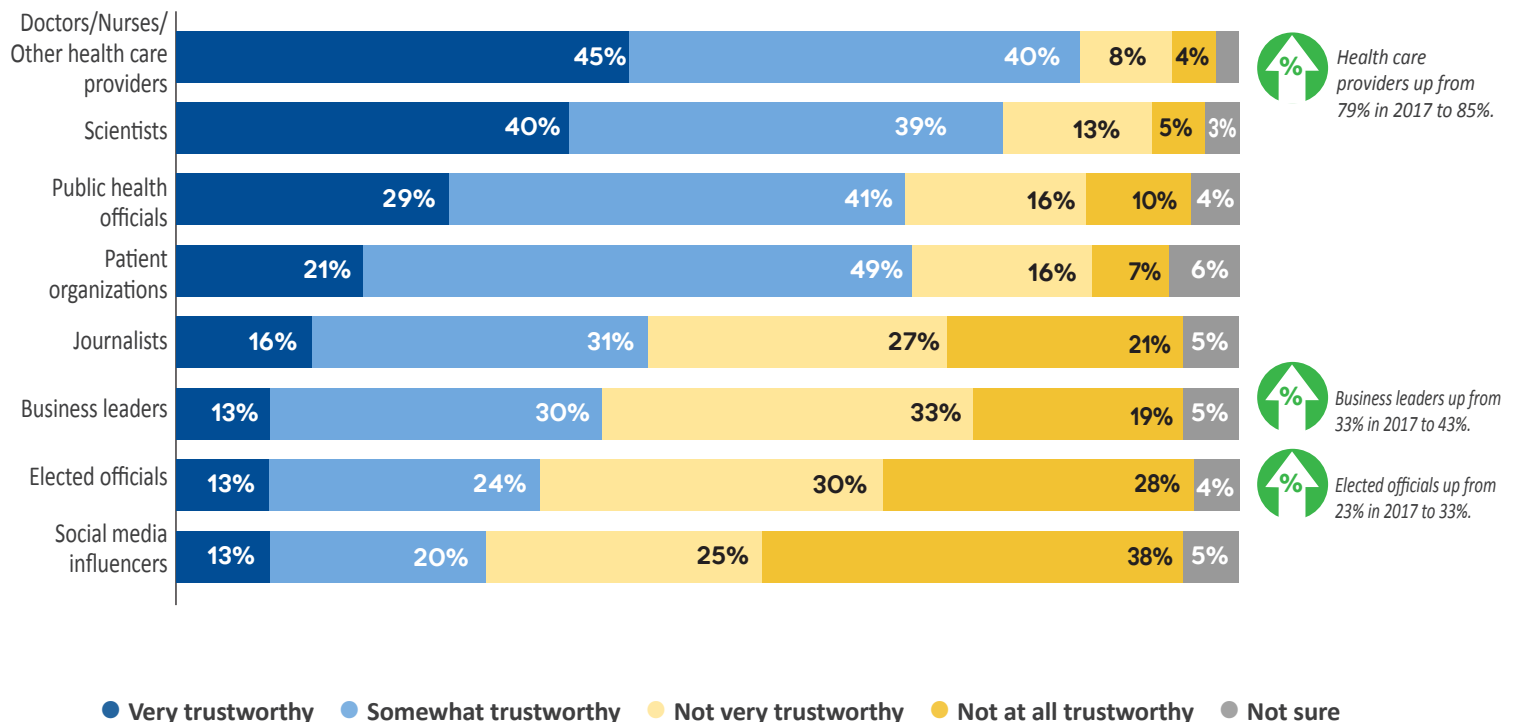
“Our nation’s scientific capacity is a defining strength and must continue to be a top priority going forward. In doing so, we must also bolster and diversify the STEM workforce, shore up our STEM infrastructure, and build out STEM investment to accelerate scientific and technological progress.”

— The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson, U.S. Representative (D-TX)

TRUST IN SCIENCE

AMERICANS HAVE HIGHEST TRUST IN HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND SCIENTISTS AS SPOKESPERSONS FOR HEALTH RESEARCH

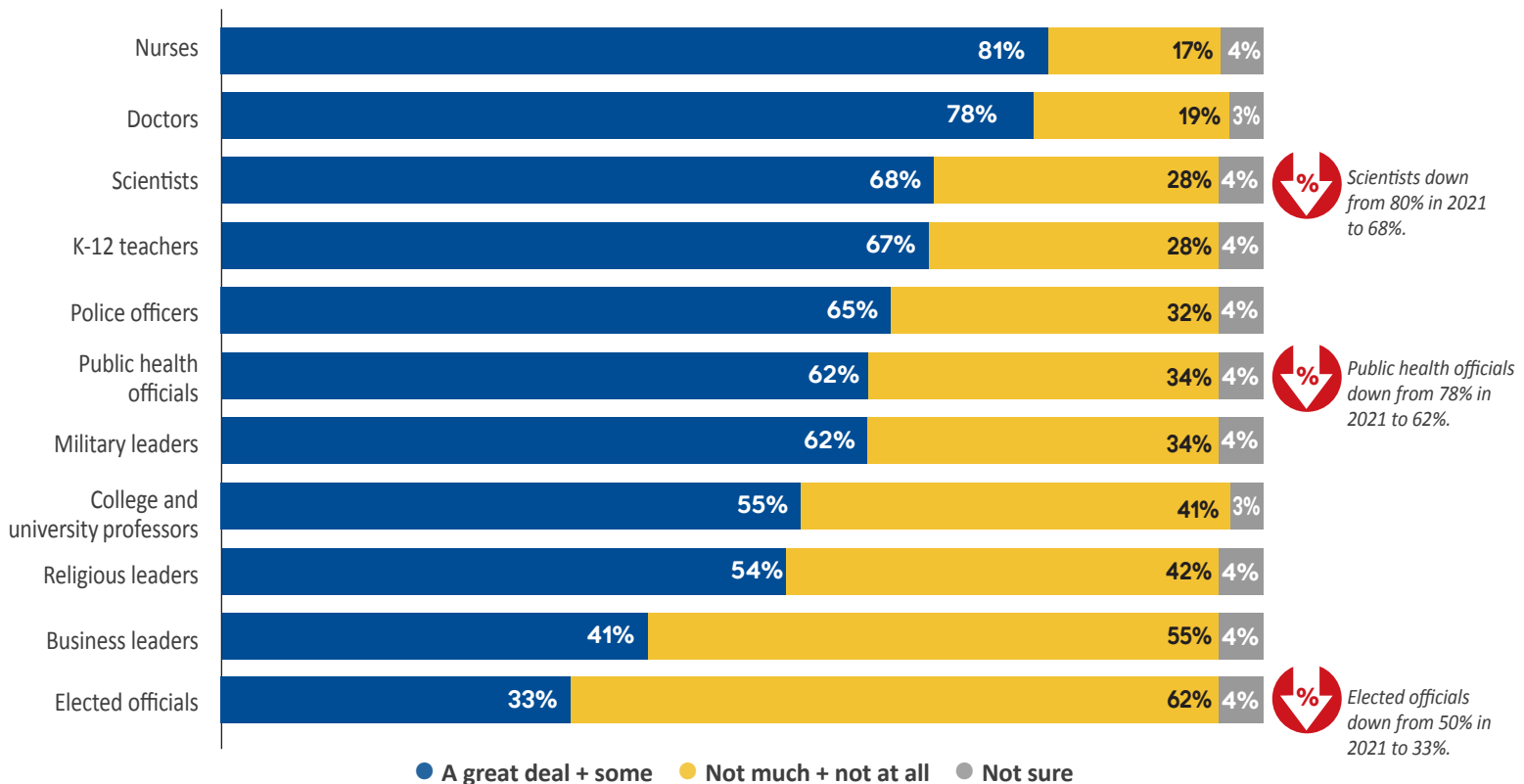
How trustworthy do you consider each of the following to be as spokespersons for medical and health research:



Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.

CONFIDENCE IN SCIENTISTS AND PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS HIGH, BUT LOSING GROUND

How much confidence do you have in each of the following to act in your best interest?



Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.

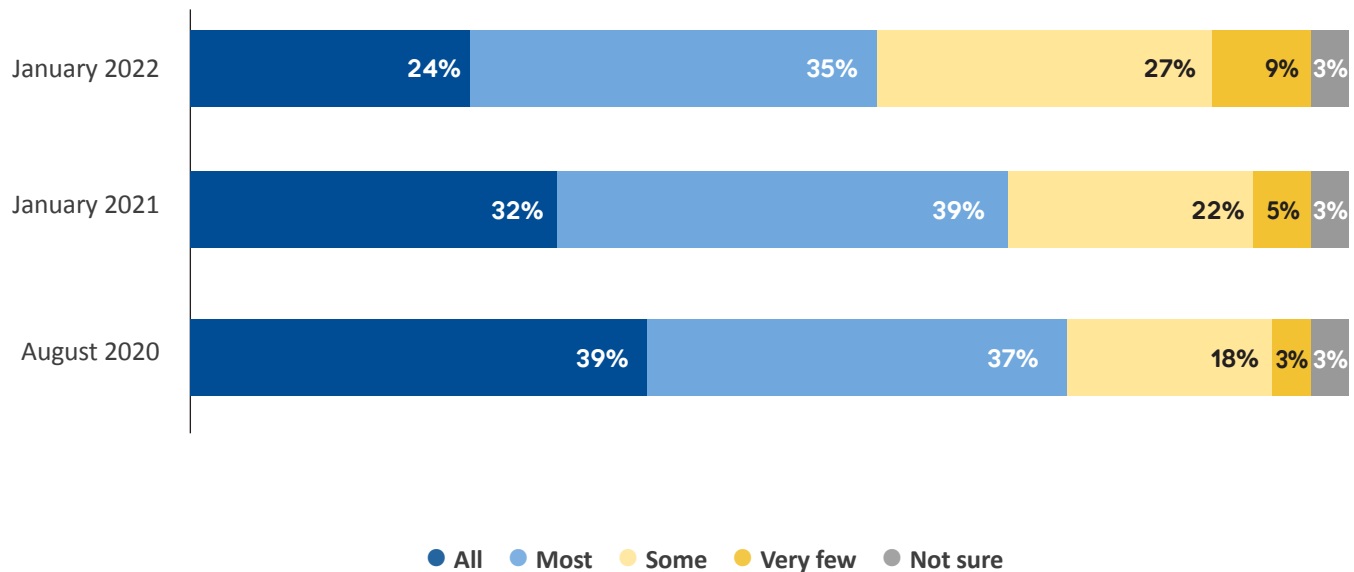


“With science as one of the reliable foundations to guide us into the future, it’s critical that science is communicated with a uniform voice, relying on rigor, transparency, and quality.”

— Mikael Dolsten, MD, PhD, Chief Scientific Officer and President of Worldwide Research, Development and Medical, Pfizer Inc

6 IN 10 THINK THE WORK OF SCIENTISTS BENEFITS ALL OR MOST IN AMERICA, BUT PERCENTAGES ARE SLIPPING

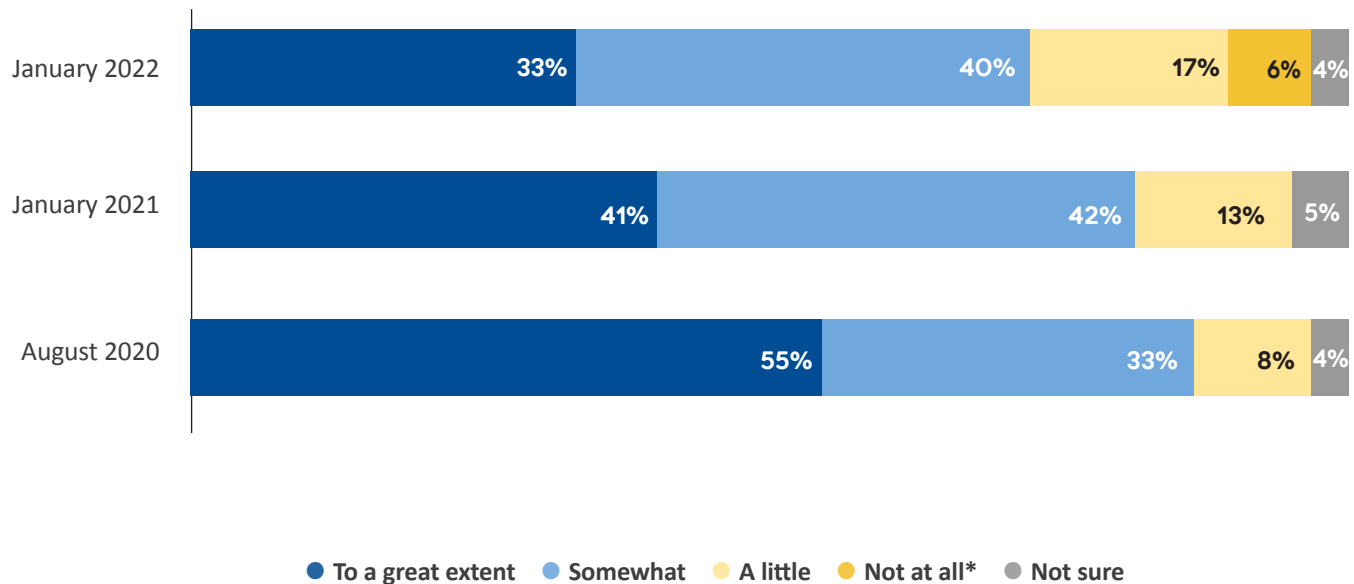
In general, do you think the work that scientists do benefits all, most, some, or very few people in this country?



Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.

THREE QUARTERS THINK THE WORK OF SCIENTISTS BENEFITS THEM, BUT THAT SHARE IS SLIPPING

In general, do you think the work that scientists do benefits you?



*choice added in 2022

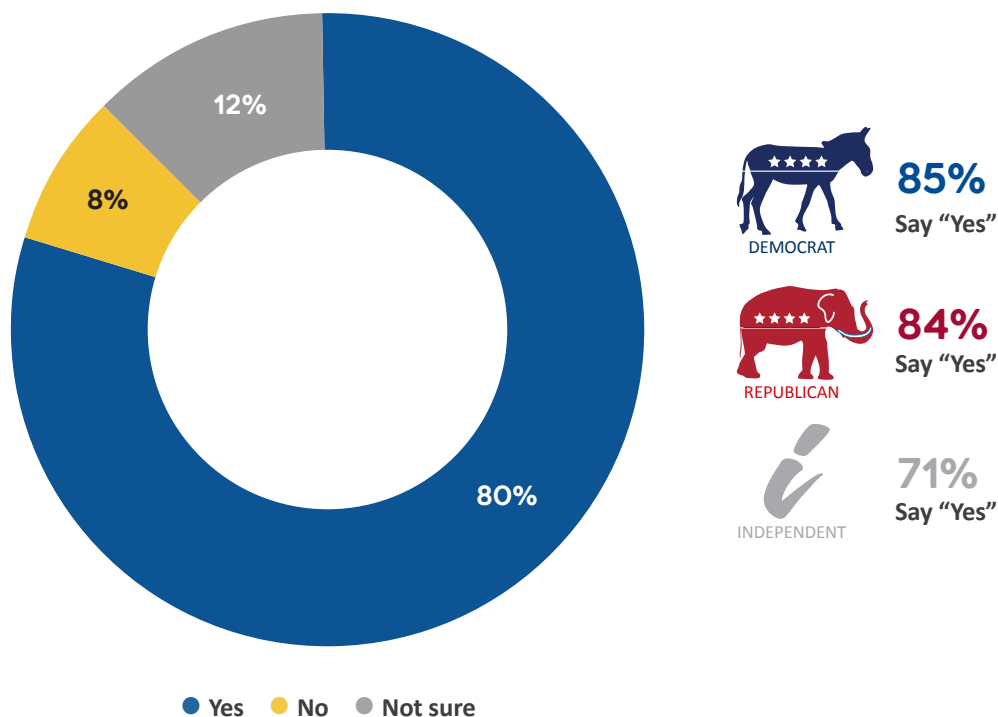
Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.

SCIENTISTS AS COMMUNICATORS

HIGH BIPARTISAN SUPPORT THAT SCIENTISTS SHOULD COMMUNICATE THEIR RESEARCH TO THE PUBLIC



Should scientists consider it part of their job to inform the public about their research and its impact on society?



Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.



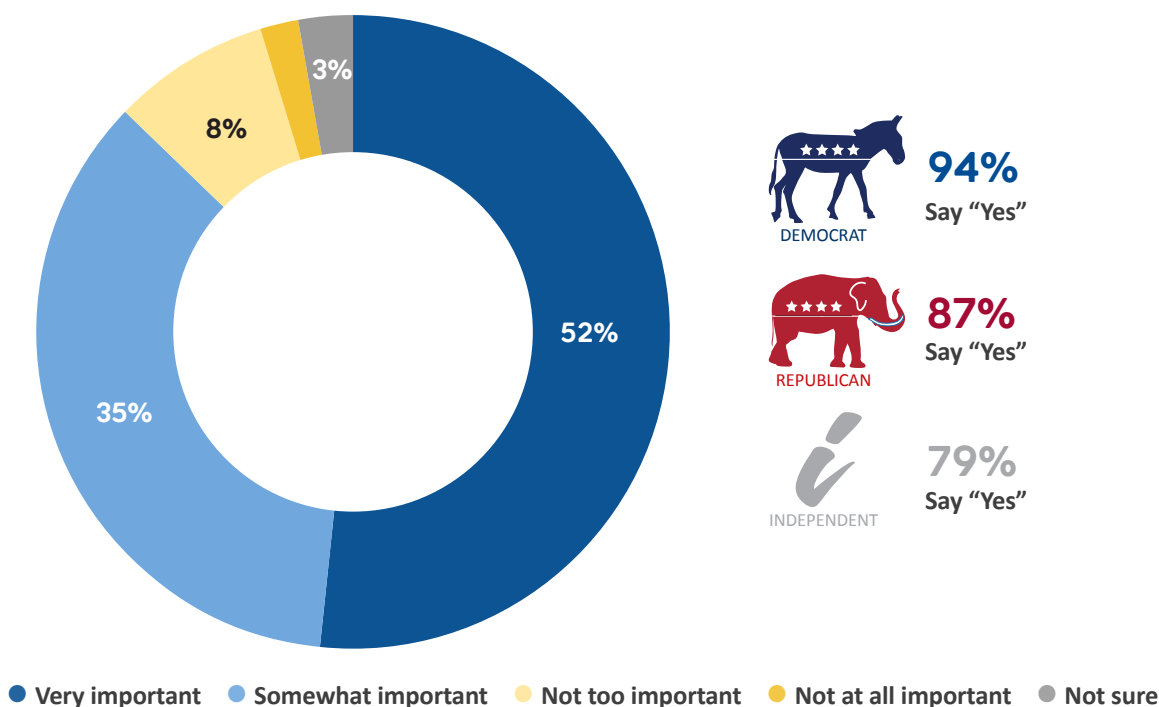
"This rare moment in history provides an opportunity not to be missed, to speak loudly and clearly about the importance of science and how the investment in science builds the foundation for better health."

— William N. Hait, MD, PhD, Executive Vice President, Chief External Innovation, Medical Safety and Global Public Health Officer, Johnson & Johnson

87% SAY IT'S IMPORTANT THAT SCIENTISTS INFORM ELECTED OFFICIALS ABOUT THEIR RESEARCH



How important is it for scientists to inform elected officials about their research and its impact on society?



Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.

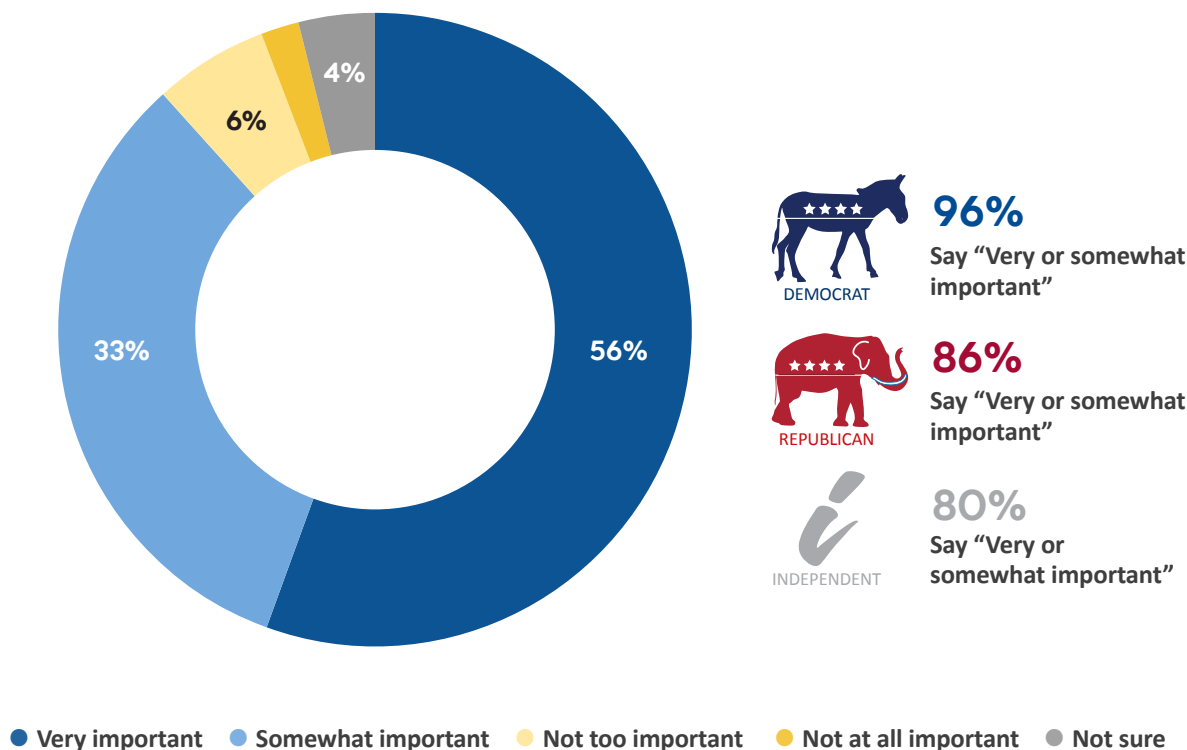


I've worked to make sure that resources are available so that cures to diseases like childhood cancer and Alzheimer's disease can be pursued to the absolute best of our ability... Bottom line, research saves lives."

— The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito, U.S. Representative (R-WV)

HIGH BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS TO LISTEN TO ADVICE FROM SCIENTISTS

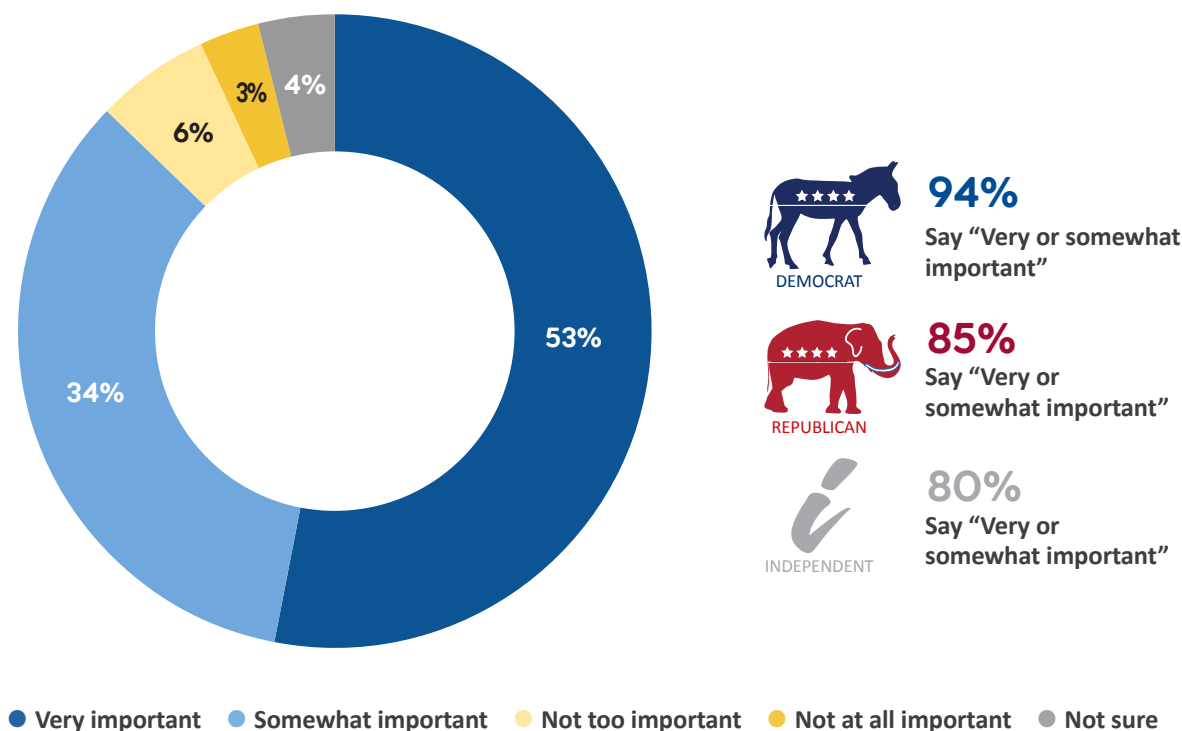
In thinking about threats to your health, how important is it that elected officials at all levels listen to advice from scientists?



Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.

9 IN 10 SAY IT'S IMPORTANT TO LISTEN TO ADVICE FROM PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

In thinking about threats to your health, how important is it that elected officials at all levels listen to advice from public health professionals?

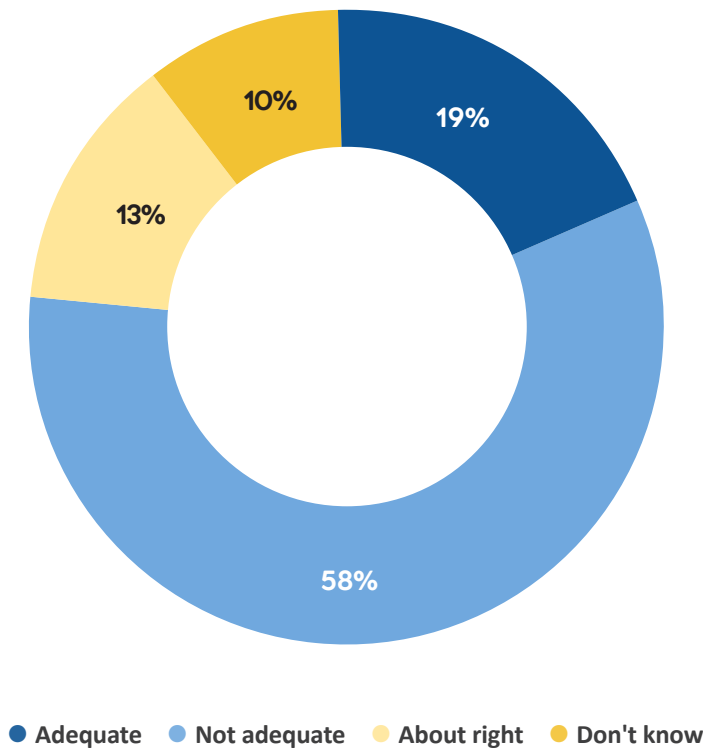


Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.

ADDRESSING HEALTH THREATS

INVESTMENT IN MENTAL HEALTH IS NOT ADEQUATE

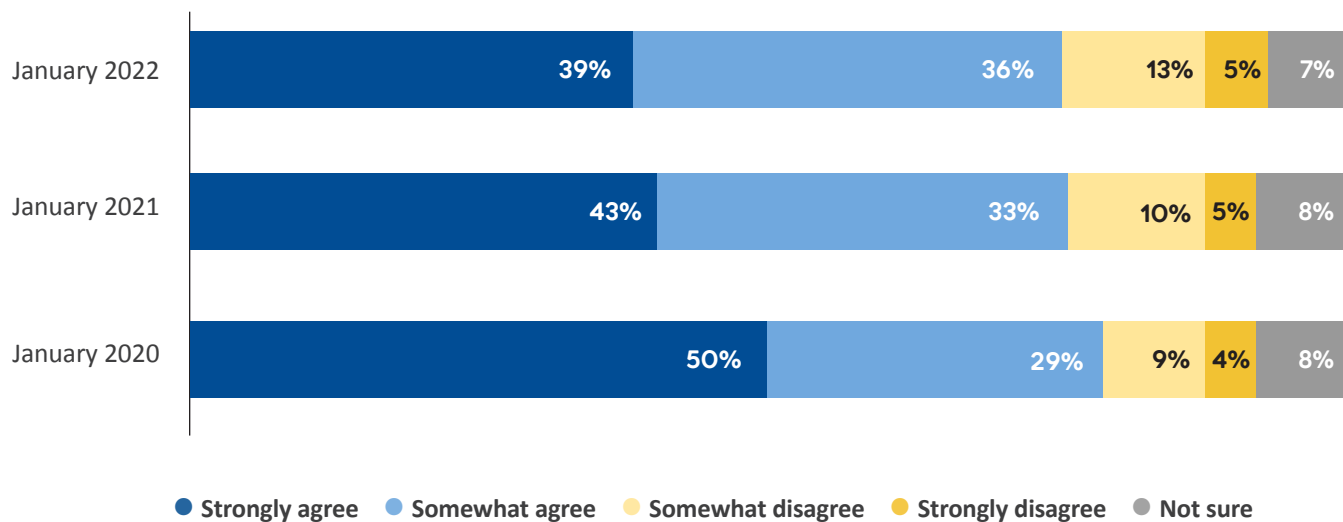
Do you think federal investment in mental health research has been adequate, not adequate or about right?



Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.

OPIOID ABUSE CONTINUES TO BE SEEN AS A MAJOR PROBLEM

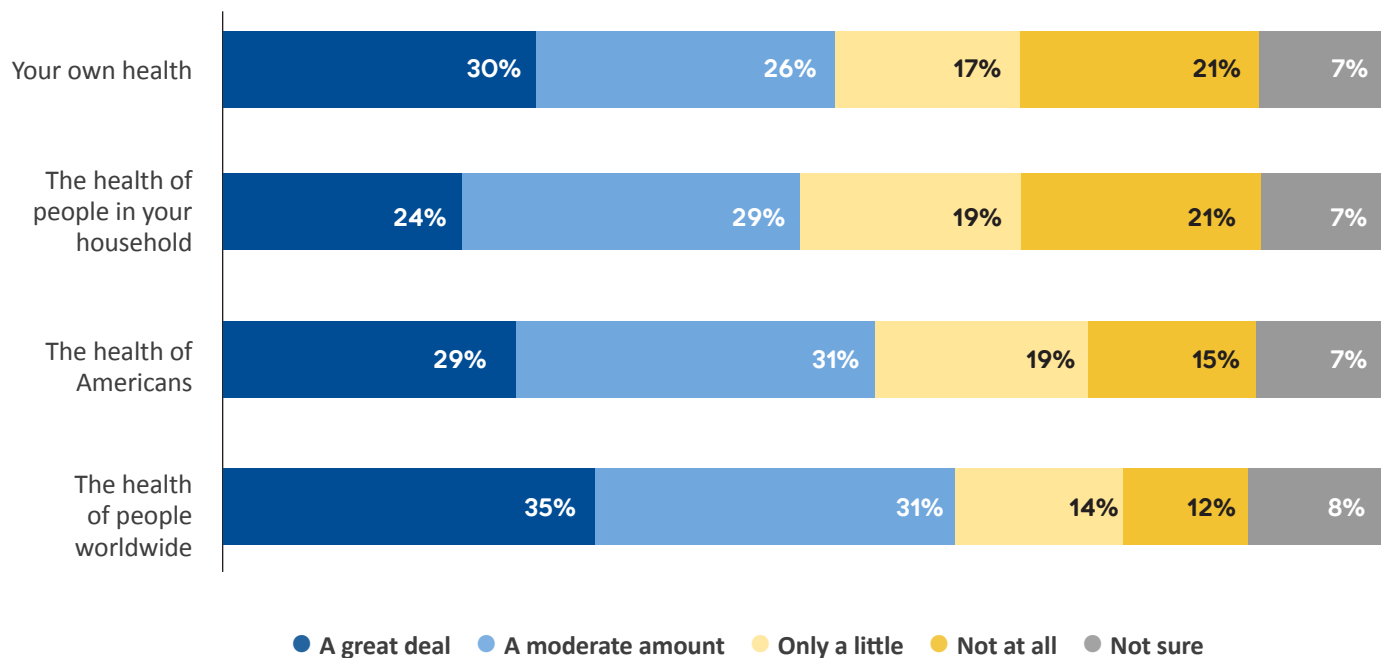
Please indicate the extent to which you agree that opioid abuse and addiction is a major problem in your community.



Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.

2 IN 3 SAY CLIMATE CHANGE IS HARMING HEALTH WORLDWIDE

How much, if at all, do you think climate change is currently harming...



Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.



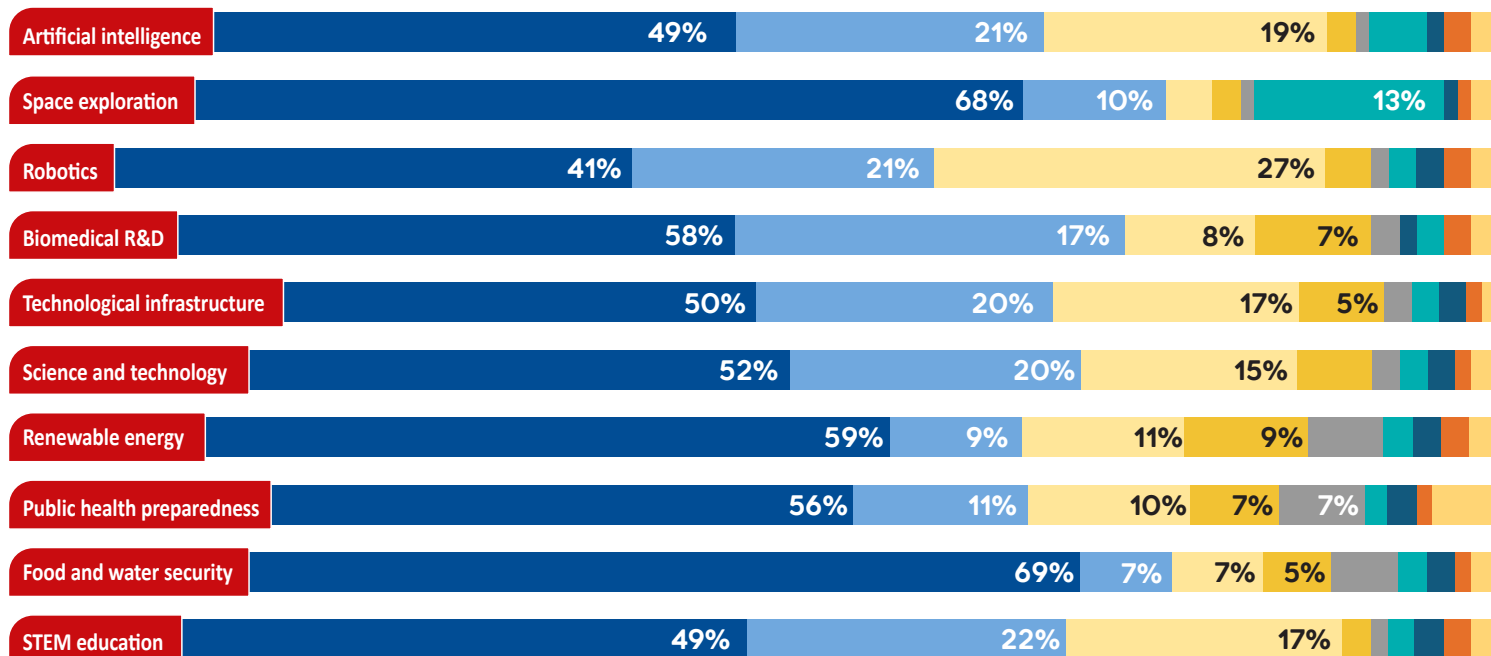
“Progress in science makes a huge difference to the world — as the global effort to confront and curb the COVID-19 pandemic is making clear. And we as the human community have other big challenges that science and technology can help us address, like climate change.”

— Dario Gil, PhD, Senior Vice President and Director, IBM Research

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

AMERICANS BELIEVE U.S. WILL BE THE NUMBER ONE WORLD LEADER IN 2030 NEW

In your view, which of the following will be the number one world leader in the following areas in the year 2030?

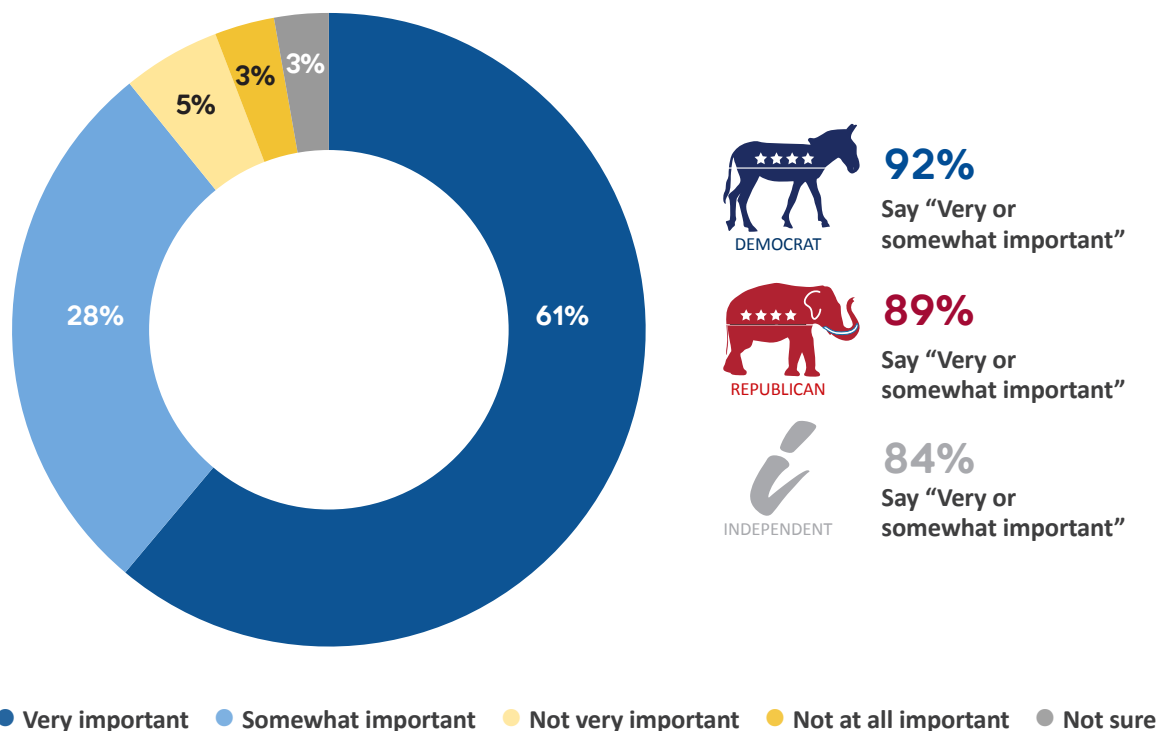


● United States ● China ● Japan ● Germany ● United Kingdom ● Russia ● South Korea ● India ● Other (Specify)

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.

9 IN 10 ACROSS PARTY LINES SAY GLOBAL LEADERSHIP IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IS IMPORTANT

How important do you think it is that the United States is a global leader in science and technology?



Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.

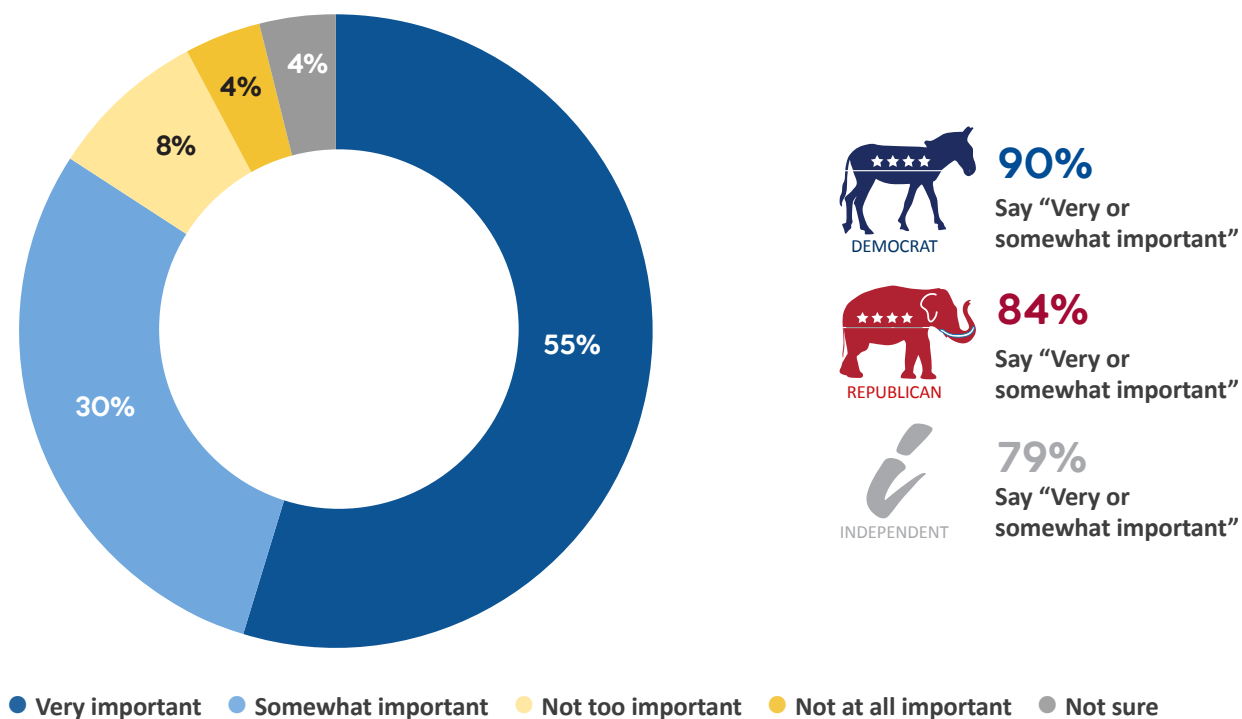


"Make no mistake: we remain in a global race for innovation advantage... Done well and learning from the past, supporting our nation's scientific enterprise will be vital to serving the well-being of all our citizens and bolstering economic security for all."

— Sudip S. Parikh, PhD, CEO, American Association for the Advancement of Science

85% SAY U.S. SHOULD BE A GLOBAL LEADER IN HEALTH RESEARCH

How important do you think it is that the United States is a global leader in research to improve health?



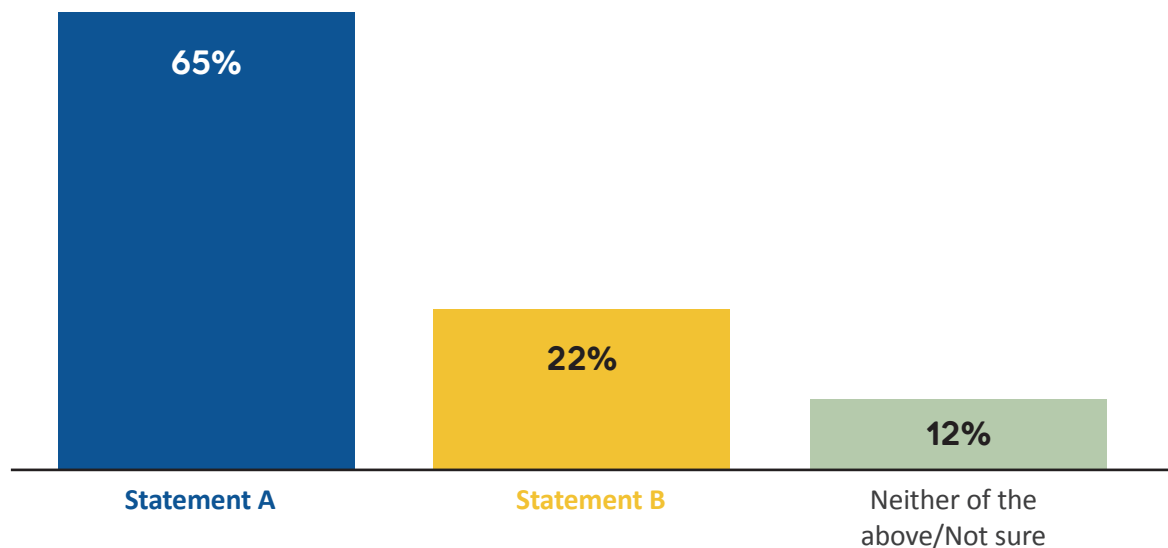
Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD INVEST IN PREVENTING AND CURING DISEASES WHEREVER THEY OCCUR



Which statement is closest to your view:

- **Statement A:** The federal government should invest in preventing and curing diseases wherever they occur.
- **Statement B:** The federal government should invest in preventing and curing diseases only if they pose an immediate risk to people in this country.



Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.



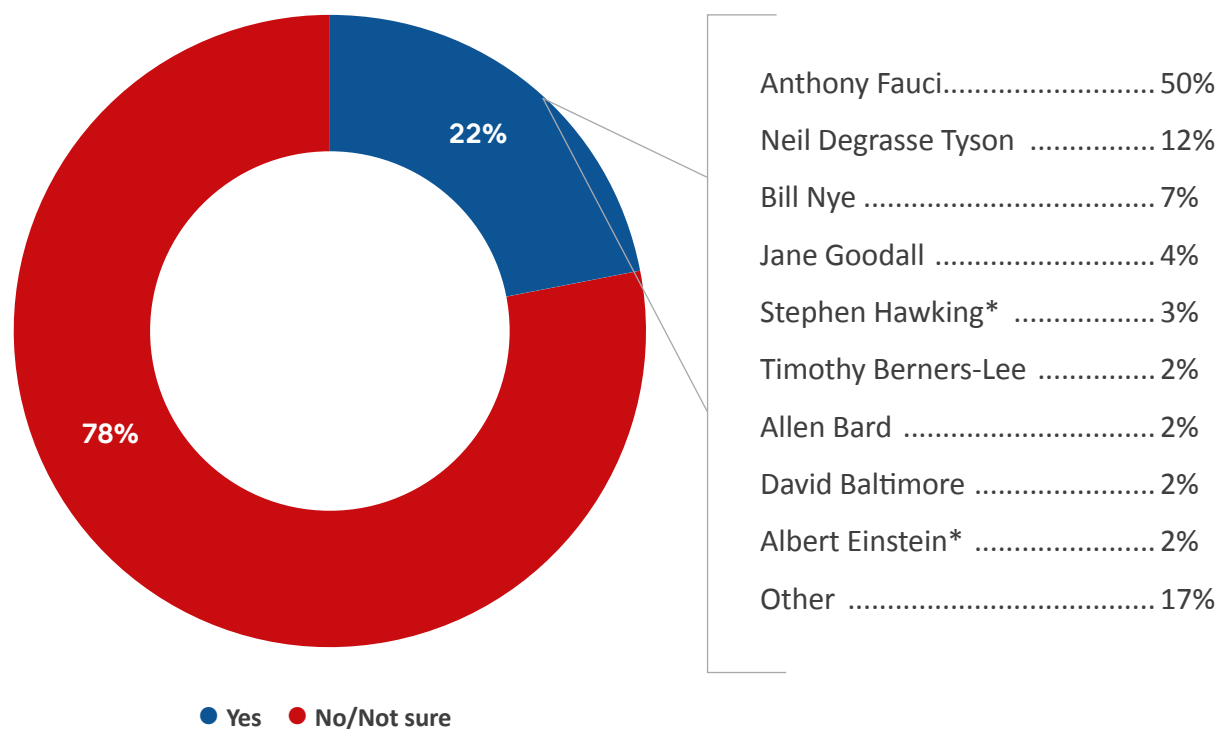
“It doesn't matter where in the world a cure is found; finding a cure is what's important, and that takes research.”

— Cynthia Zagieboylo, President and CEO, National Multiple Sclerosis Society

VISIBILITY OF SCIENCE

MOST AMERICANS CANNOT NAME A LIVING SCIENTIST

Can you name a living scientist?



*Deceased

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.

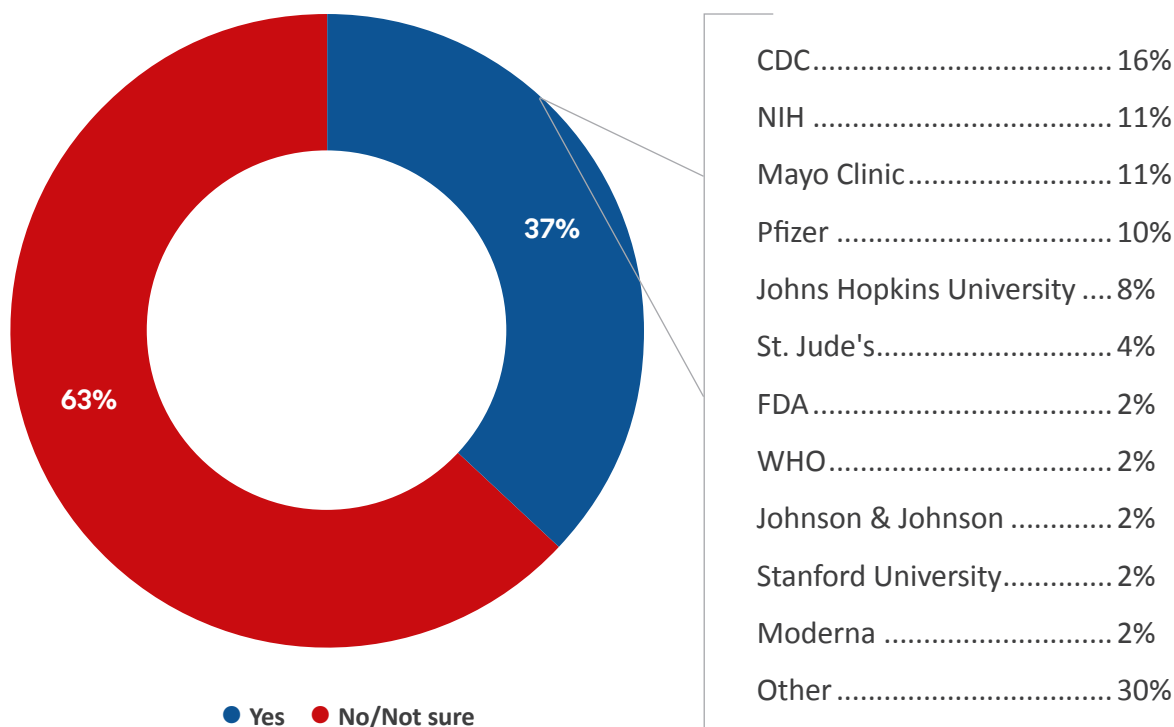


“People need to be in a relationship with science. And it needs to be a collaborative endeavor that everyone is engaged with and everyone from every community has a stake in.”

— Donna Cryer, JD, President & CEO, Global Liver Institute

2 IN 3 CANNOT NAME A MEDICAL OR HEALTH RESEARCH INSTITUTION

Can you name any institution, company, or organization where medical or health research is conducted?



CDC up from 11% to 16%*



NIH up from 5% to 11%*



Those saying "yes" down from 46% in January 2021 to 37% in January 2022.

* Since January 2021

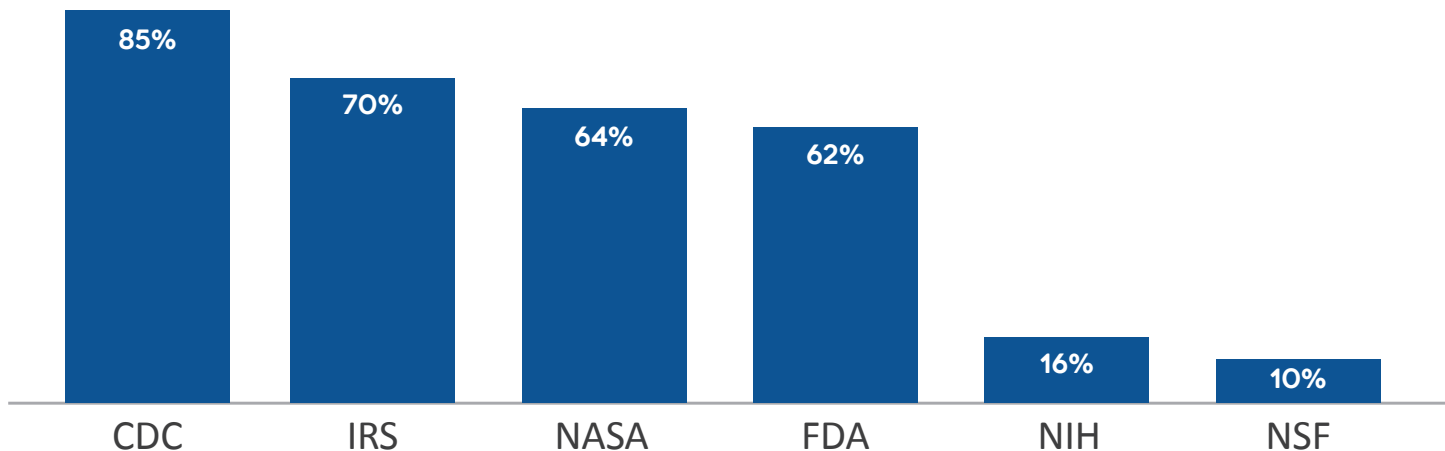
Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.

SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN PUBLIC AWARENESS OF CDC

What is the name of the government agency that is responsible for [agency description]?



CDC is up significantly from 43% in January 2020 to 85% in January 2022.



Percentage of correct responses based on the description of each agency.

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.

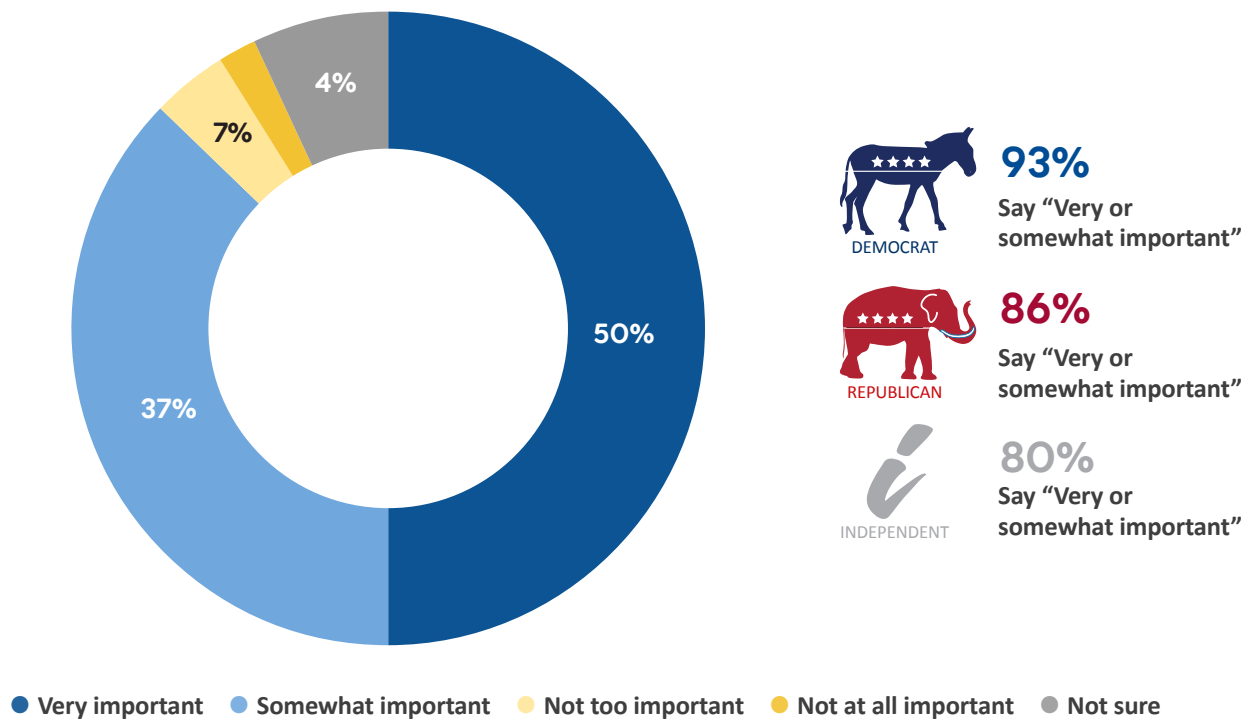


“A robust public health system, one capable of detecting any new health threat and monitoring and responding to it, is an essential component of a resilient health system.”

— Georges Benjamin, MD, Executive Director, American Public Health Association

PARTIES AGREE CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES SHOULD UNDERSTAND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ISSUES

How important is it for candidates running for Congress to have a basic understanding of issues that involve science and technology?



Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.

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METHODOLOGY

- Online surveys are conducted with an approximate sample size of 1000+, adults (ages 18 and up) and a maximum theoretical sampling error of +/- 3.1%.
- Data are demographically representative of adult U.S. residents.
- Survey data in this publication was conducted by Zogby Analytics.
- Due to rounding, the total may not add to 100% on some charts.

Zogby
Analytics

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**Poll data is available by request
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